

the central electrode 30, wherein spark discharge occurs across their gap  
extending in a substantially perpendicular direction to the axis of the central  
electrode 30.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 17 with the  
following rewritten paragraph:

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--At the one end 12 of the housing 10, two ground electrodes 40 are  
fixed to the housing 10 by means of welding or the like in a radial direction RD  
of the axis AX. These ground electrodes 40 includes a Ni alloy or Fe alloy or  
the like. In this embodiment, the ground electrode 40 has a post shape of  
which section is rectangular. An end (end surface) 41 of the ground electrode  
40 opposite to one end 12 of the housing 10 confronts the side surface 35 of the  
first discharge member 32. These ground electrodes 40 are arranged at the  
opposite positions on the circular shape of the end 12, so that the first discharge  
member 32 on the central electrode 30 is arranged between these ground  
electrodes 40 with spark gaps 50.--

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Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 12 with the  
following rewritten paragraph:

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--Each of the first and second discharge members 32 and 42 mainly  
includes Ir and at least one of Rh (rhodium), Pt, Ru (ruthenium), Pd  
(palladium), and W(tungsten) is added thereto. In this embodiment, each of the

first and second discharge members 32 and 42 includes Ir alloy including 90% Ir and 10% Rh by weight (hereinafter, this alloy is referred to as Ir-10Rh).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 20 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Moreover, the inventor experimentally discovered that it is favorable to make the absolute  $|A-D|$  equal to or lower than the result of adding 0.5 mm to the gap G from studying the relation between the sizes of the first and second discharge members 32 and 42 and the range of spark discharge (discharge width T in the normal direction ND on the surface of the second discharge member 42). An example will be described.--

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-7 are pending in this application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current Amendment. The attached is captioned "Version With Markings to Show Changes Made."

### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1, 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Osamura et al (U.S. '000, hereinafter "Osamura") in view of Abe et al (U.S. '234, hereinafter "Abe"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.